

In Opposition to Raised Bill 1076 And Similar Infringements on Lawful Firearms Ownership

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I am here today to testify in opposition to raised bill 1076 and similar bills. I find this bill greatly disturbing.

- If rifles in common use like AR-15's are deemed "weapons of war," and only the police can buy them after July 1, who will the police be at "war" with?
- We already have de-facto registration – State Form DPS-3-C. Any time we purchase a firearm in a store, or a handgun is sold between private parties, we fill this form out and submit copies to the state police. More than a few of us fill this out for private rifle transactions as well. Why is the state's paperwork retention problem suddenly now going to be my registration problem?
- Registration in NJ and NYC preceded gun confiscation in the '90's and this has implications for compliance. After NJ and NYC imposed their "assault weapon" bans, the Canadians established their own long gun registry. But Canadian gun owners, after seeing what happened in NJ and NYC, weren't dumb. They refused to comply. From 1993 to 2012, Canada dumped over a billion dollars into this program, which was eventually shut down. What makes you think CT will be any different?
- Annual registration of all long guns with a recurring fee per gun? Is this not the equivalent of a "poll tax" on an enumerated constitutional right? Will this not be a burden on individuals who own multiple firearms?
- Are you going to build more prisons for folks who don't comply with this mandatory registration?
- If rifle and shot gun purchasers already go through a background check and a 14 day wait, what is the need for a long gun permit? If I already have a pistol permit, will I need this rifle permit too?
- Regarding the restrictions on the sale, possession, and the taxation of ammunition. Will any of this stop people from going out of state to buy it? It's already a federal offense for a criminal to possess ammunition.
- Many of the provisions in this bill are similar to those in the NY SAFE Act of 2013. Are you aware that law has prompted a huge backlash? Over 50 of NY's 62 counties have passed resolutions opposing it. The New York State Sheriff's Association openly disagreed with the gun and magazine ban provisions. Dissension is brewing in the ranks of the NY State Police. NY citizens

have promised massive civil disobedience. And, the NY State Supreme Court has directed the Cuomo administration to prove that the NY SAFE Act is constitutional.

- Will you be surprised when vendors start closing the “police loophole” and stop selling equipment to CT law enforcement? It’s already happening in New York. I can tell you that legislation is already having a chilling effect on future training for law enforcement and civilians here.

None of the provisions in this over reaching bill would have prevented the tragedy that occurred on December 14. Instead, they simply harass responsible gun owners. A colorful liberal thinker once said that “the essence of tyranny is not iron law. It is capricious law.”

Please don’t micromanage our rights away under the guise of “public safety.”

I thank you for your time.